



Tolling 101 in Washington State

Overview of the Washington State Transportation Commission

An independent, seven-member body of citizens appointed by the Governor for staggered six-year terms – three from east of the mountains and four from the West. The WSDOT Secretary and the Governor's Office serve as *ex officio*.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Proposes transportation policy and finance recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.
- **As the State Tolling Authority, adopts all state highway and bridge tolls and sets fares for Washington State Ferries.**
- A public forum for transportation policy development.
- Develops and issues a comprehensive and balanced 20-year statewide transportation plan.
- Conducts a statewide outreach program, including on-line surveys and polls, to gather public input into state transportation policy, to promote transportation education, and to understand local and regional transportation needs and challenges.

Toll Program is Shared

The Legislature, Commission, WSDOT, and the Treasurer
Each Play a Role

	Washington State Legislature	Transportation Commission	Department of Transportation	Office of the State Treasurer (OST)
Toll Authority Under Current Legislation	Establish tolling, designate toll corridors and use of toll revenues	Set toll rates and related fees	Collect tolls, build and operate toll collection systems	
Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish legal toll framework• Authorize tolling in designated corridors• Approve financing plans• Enable tolling practices• Appropriate toll operation budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set toll rates within funding requirements• Set toll discounts• Establish advisory committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop toll collection systems and procedures• Collect tolls• Finance improvements• Operate tolled corridors• Assess financial feasibility of toll projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducts all financing for the State of Washington• Responsible for the issuance of toll backed debt

Tolling to Fund a Project



Tacoma Narrows Bridge

- Project Cost: Tolls are paying for the new \$735 million bridge; gas tax pays for another \$583 million in SR-16 corridor improvements.
- Toll revenue makes bond payments and finances maintenance and operations.
- Toll Rates for 2-axle vehicles (flat rates, no time of day, or day of week pricing):
 - Good to Go:* \$4.50
 - Toll Booth:* \$5.50
 - Pay By Mail:* \$6.50
- Transit is not exempt.



Tolling to Manage Traffic

SR 167 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Pilot Project

- Rates range from .50 cents - \$9.00
- Average toll: Less than \$1.00
- High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes use dynamic pricing to ensure speeds stay at 45 MPH or better. This performance standard is set in state and federal law.
- Rates vary based upon the speed in the HOT lane. If speeds start dropping, the toll rate goes up; if speeds start increasing, the toll rate goes down.
- Speeds have increased by 11% in GP lanes.
- HOVs & transit are free.



Tolling to Fund a Project and Manage Traffic

SR 520 Bridge Replacement / HOV Project

- New floating bridge being constructed.
- Extends HOV lanes from I-5 to SR 202.
- Total Project Cost: \$4.65 billion, of which \$1.2 billion is raised from tolling.
- Tolls vary by time of day and day of week.
 - Weekday Peak Toll: \$3.70 Good to Go
 - No tolls 11:00 pm – 5:00 am
 - Exemptions: registered vanpools and transit



Tolling to Manage Traffic & Raise Revenue For Future 405 Corridor Projects

I-405 Express Toll Lanes

**Anticipated to begin in Fall of 2015*

- Use dynamic pricing to ensure speeds stay at 45 MPH or better. This performance standard is set in state and federal law.
- Rates vary based upon the speed in the Express Toll Lanes. If speeds start dropping, the toll rate goes up; if speeds start increasing, the toll rate goes down.

Commission Toll Rate Proposal

Rate Range: \$0.75 - \$10.00

Pay By Mail Fee: \$ 2.00

Exemptions: Transit, Vanpools, HOV's, motorcycles, 16-passenger buses, in-service emergency vehicles, maintenance, enforcement, and incident management vehicles, including private tow-trucks when directed by WSP.

Carpool Policy

- 3+ carpools exempt at all times
- 2+ carpools exempt except 5-9 a.m. and 3-7 p.m. on weekdays



Tolling in the Future

Additional Authorized Tolled Facilities:

- SR 99 Downtown Bored Tunnel

Facilities that have been studied, or are being studied for tolling feasibility:

- SR 509 Extension to I-5
- SR 167 Extension to Port of Tacoma
- I-90 from I-5 to I-405



Questions?

Contact the Washington State Transportation Commission Offices

Phone:

360-705-7070

Or email:

transc@wstc.wa.gov